

for proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be stated separately.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987; 52 FR 20599, June 2, 1987]

**§ 963.18 Initial decision.**

Unless given orally at the conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer shall render an initial decision as expeditiously as practicable following the conclusion of the hearing and the receipt of the proposed findings and conclusions, if any. The initial decision becomes the final agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

**§ 963.19 Appeal.**

Either party may file exceptions in a brief on appeal to the Judicial Officer within 15 days after receipt of the initial or tentative decision unless additional time is granted. A reply brief may be filed within 15 days after the receipt of the appeal brief by the opposing party. The Judicial Officer has all powers of a presiding officer and is authorized to decide all issues de novo.

**§ 963.20 Final agency decision.**

The Judicial Officer, or by delegation the Associate Judicial Officer, renders the final agency decision which will be served upon the parties. If the decision is that the Postal Service's prohibitory order was violated, the Recorder shall provide a certified copy of the record to the General Counsel for use in seeking court enforcement of the order.

**§ 963.21 Official record.**

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits,

briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding constitute the official record of the proceeding.

**§ 963.22 Public information.**

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial, tentative, and final agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

**PART 964—RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING DISPOSITION OF MAIL WITHHELD FROM DELIVERY PURSUANT TO 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004**

Sec.

- 964.1 Authority for rules.
- 964.2 Scope of rules.
- 964.3 Customer petitions; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.
- 964.4 Hearings.
- 964.5 Election as to hearing.
- 964.6 Default.
- 964.7 Presiding officers.
- 964.8 Subpoenas and witness fees not authorized.
- 964.9 Discovery; interrogatories; admission of facts; production; and inspection of documents.
- 964.10 Evidence.
- 964.11 Transcript.
- 964.12 Computation of time.
- 964.13 Continuances and extensions.
- 964.14 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.
- 964.15 Decisions.
- 964.16 Appeal.
- 964.17 Final agency decision.
- 964.18 Compromise and informal disposition.
- 964.19 Orders.
- 964.20 Modification or revocation of orders.
- 964.21 Official record.
- 964.22 Public information.
- 964.23 Ex Parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401, 3003, 3004.

SOURCE: 52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 964.1 Authority for rules.**

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the United Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 CFR 224.1(c)(4)).